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STAGE3

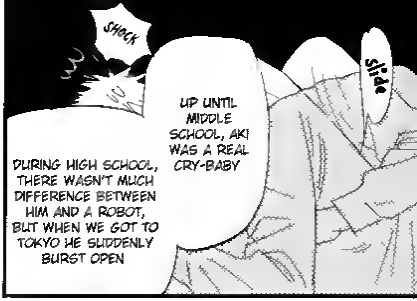
WAIT A MINUTE--
SAYUU, WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU AT SUTABA, I WAS ATTRACTED TO YOU!
GEH!
DO YOU SEE ME AS A WOMAN OR SOME-THING?!
"AKI, YOU'VE GOT SOME HORRIBLE HOBBIES!!
It's weird for me to be saying this myself, but--
SQUEEZE

*Sutoba = Starbucks coffee chain

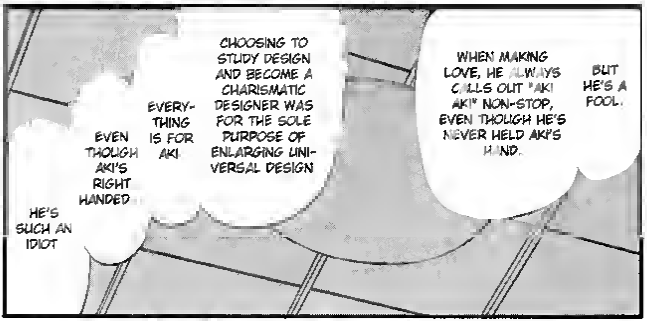
DON'T THEY SAY THAT EVEN MISHIMA BOU TOOK ON MACHO FEMALE ROLES?
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS NOT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE,
BUT THE ESSENCE OF A MAN'S HEART!
YOU ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE!
THAT'S BECAUSE I WANTED TO HOLD YOU, SO I ACTED LIKE A GOOD BOY
That's fraud
slip in
WAAAAAAAH~

BANG
IT'S SO DAMN NOISY!
BANG BANG
BAM THUD KNOCK
SHUT THE HELL UP OR I'LL KILL YA!
SHUDDUP SAYUU!
BANG BANG BANG
.....
.....
NOTH.. NOTHING
WHAT IS IT NOW?
OH OH..
THROB
SAVED.
Although he did take up my space...
I'LL GO TO SLEEP FIRST,
SORRY!
UUGH

Jeez
blink
I WONDER IF I GOT MYSELF INVOLVED WITH A DANGEROUS GUY...
SHOCK!
RUSTLE
HERE IT COMES~!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
AO?!
...IT WAS REALLY DANGEROUS JUST NOW.
ANYWAY, I'VE BECOME YOUR SAVIOUR NOW, HAVEN'T I? YOU OWE ME ONE.
touch


SHOCK
SLIDE
UP UNTIL MIDDLE SCHOOL, AKI WAS A REAL CRY-BABY
DURING HIGH SCHOOL, THERE WASN'T MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIM AND A ROBOT, BUT WHEN WE GOT TO TOKYO HE SUDDENLY BURST OPEN

SHIBA, HE— WHEN WE WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, THIS FOOL OF A TEACHER SAID THAT, "LEFT-HANDED PEOPLE CAN'T BE JAPANESE." SHIBA ACTUALLY STOOD UP AND OPPOSED HIM
I WAS REALLY TOUCHED WITH HIM. IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.


BUT HE'S A FOOL.
WHEN MAKING LOVE, HE ALWAYS CALLS OUT "AKI AKI" NON-STOP, EVEN THOUGH HE'S NEVER HELD AKI'S HAND.
CHOOSING TO STUDY DESIGN AND BECOME A CHARISMATIC DESIGNER WAS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ENLARGING UNIVERSAL DESIGN
EVERYTHING IS FOR AKI
EVEN THOUGH AKI'S RIGHT HANDED
HE'S SUCH AN IDIOT

*Universal Design: Doesn't differentiate age, origin, nationality, hand preference, etc. Anyone can make use of these design ideas.

ME?! AKI SHIBA AO
DOES THAT MEAN...
AKI IS BECOMING STRONGER AND STRONGER.
BACK THEN AT THE CAFE, HIS STRENGTH OF SEDUCTION WAS OBVIOUSLY MORE POWERFUL THAN MINE
MY AIM WAS TO SORT OUT THOSE NEGATIVE EMOTIONS HE HAS WITHIN, BUT IT SEEMS I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE
IF AKI WASN'T A SEME, YOU'D HAVE DONE HIM, RIGHT?
...EVEN SO, I DON'T MIND.
JUST AS LONG AS SHIBA WILL HOLD ME...
IT'S SO GREAT SAYUU! NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE AKI ON YOUR BACK ALL THE TIME.
...I WILL EVENTUALLY BE SWALLOWED UP BY AKI.

SAYUU, YOU'VE GOT A NOSTALGIC SORT OF SMELL
YOU SMELL LIKE MY FATHER—
Z2222
NOT LIKE I CAN HELP IT THAT MY FACE LOOKS LIKE AN OLD GUY'S...
18 years old
A PERSON WITH SPLIT PERSONALITIES... IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE COME ACROSS ONE
THE LEFT-HANDED AKIRA (WHO SEEMS LIKE THE DOMINANT PERSONALITY) AND THE RIGHT-HANDED AOI, HUH
THIS GUY USED HIS BEWITCHING BEAM TO HIT ON ME, WENT TO A LOVE HOTEL, AND DUE TO SOME WEIRDO POWER OF HIS, BECAME LEFT-HANDED.

Ah- there's still some of that maliciousness left-
...WHAT THE HECK AM I MUMBLING ON ABOUT~
WHERE HAS THAT DOMINEERING QUEEN FROM BEFORE DISAPPEARED TO?
YOUR PERSONALITY'S PRETTY OUT THERE TOO, AO
... HIS SLEEPING FACE IS REALLY CUTE
"MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES"
SIGH THERE'S LOTS OF THEM
WAS THE WORD SEARCH TOO BROAD?
I TOLD IT NOT SEARCH THROUGH BOOK ADS...
HELL~ THERE'S NO END TO THIS
click click click
A DOMESTIC KITCHEN KNIFE COSTING 4800 YEN?
What's so special about it?
click click
THERE ARE MORE WEBSITES THEN I THOUGHT
THERE'S ALSO ONLINE SHOPPING FOR LEFT-HANDED ITEMS
click
TAP TAP
Left Handers
CLICK CLICK
"DO NOT BOTH OUR HANDS RESEMBLE EACH OTHER? HOWEVER BETWEEN THE TWO, SURELY THERE EXISTS INEQUALITY."

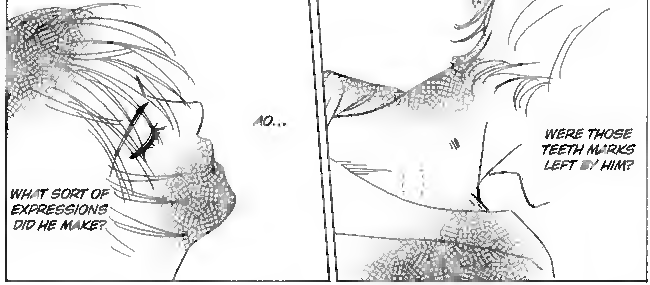
"JUST WHERE IS THERE A HISTORY OF THE RIGHT-HANDED BEING PREDOMINANT?
WHAT'S MORE, WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE SLAVERY OF THE LEFT-HANDED?"
FURTHER READING: "RESEARCH BETWEEN THE CORRELATION OF RIGHT-HANDED PREDOMINANCE AND RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM".

MM~
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
AH, THAT'S RIGHT. HE WRITES HIS NAME WITH BLUE FROM DEEP BLUE *
Aoi
Treat me to coffee next time.
Aoi.

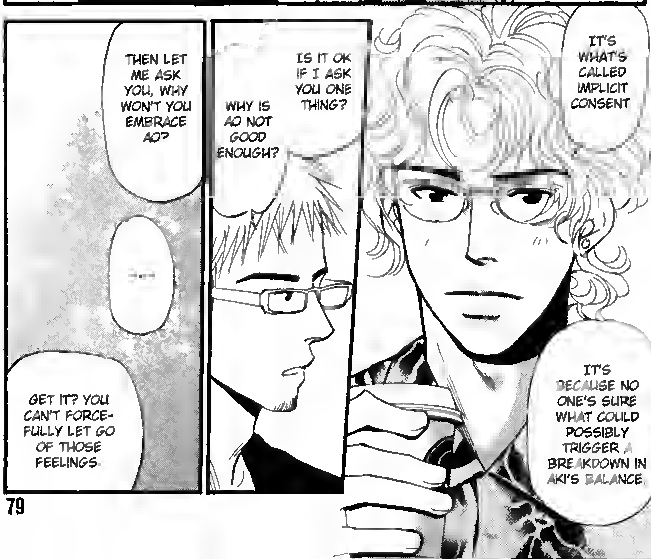
*Blue ( 藍 = peki ) from deep blue ( 紺碧 = konpeki ) The kanji Aoi writes his name with although still meaning blue/green, isn't the more common way of writing blue/green (青 ao) which is what Sayuu thinks to himself in this bubble

PUSH!
—SHIBA-SAN?
Break Time
YOU Too!!?
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D TELL ME YOUR ADDRESS
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG I WANT TO BE ABLE TO CONTACT THEM IF AKI OR AO STAY OVER AT YOUR PLACE AGAIN

JUST KNOWING WHERE THEY WERE, WOULD GREATLY REASSURE ME—
AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE TOO OVERPROTECTIVE?
IT'S UP TO YOU WHAT YOU THINK, BUT PLEASE LET ME KNOW!
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
Pass me a pen and paper
THANKS, HERE'S MINE
YOUR ADDRESS TOO!
Shiina Akira
HE GIVES OFF THE FEELING OF AN ARTS STUDENT, BUT...
You're so annoying
IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A SCENE OF THEM MAKING LOVE.


WHAT SORT OF EXPRESSIONS DID HE MAKE?
AO...
WERE THOSE TEETH MARKS LEFT BY HIM?

GASP
You were [moaning] it just now, weren't you?
...DON'T TELL AKI ABOUT ME AND AO SLEEPING TOGETHER.


IT'S WHAT'S CALLED IMPLICIT CONSENT
IS IT OK IF I ASK YOU ONE THING?
WHY IS AO NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
THEN LET ME ASK YOU, WHY WON'T YOU EMBRACE AO?
...
GET IT? YOU CAN'T FORCE-FULLY LET GO OF THOSE FEELINGS.
IT'S BECAUSE NO ONE'S SURE WHAT COULD POSSIBLY TRIGGER A BREAKDOWN IN AKI'S BALANCE.

ISN'T HE PITIFUL? HE WAS CRYING WHILE THINKING ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW
WHAT THE HECK AM I SAYING...?
...MY CAPACITY IS LIMITED,
IT CAN ONLY HOLD ONE PERSON, WHICH IS AKI
YOU'RE straight, right?
SO WHATEVER AKI'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION IS, YOU WON'T GIVE IN TO HIM RIGHT?
UWAH, HOW SCARY
"THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF AO IS FOR ME TO RESOLVE MY ISSUES WITH HAND DOMINANCE AND SAME-SEX LOVE..."
WELL .. I'VE ALREADY GOT A GIRLFRIEND AND ALL...
SO YOU GUYS JUST DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO.
PRETTY IS PRETTY, BUT IN THE END HE'S STILL A MAN...

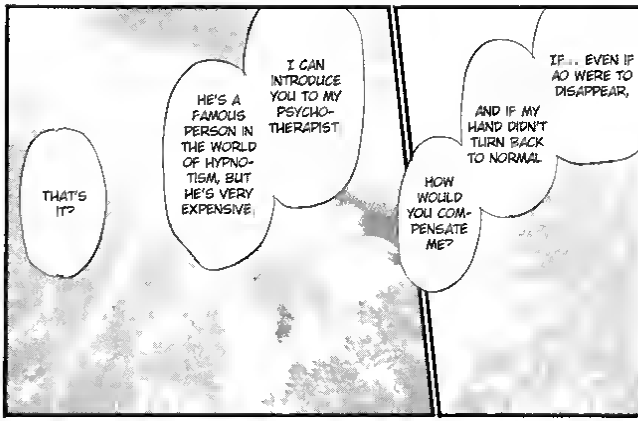
NO.
FINALLY GOT TO THE POINT
—HAVE YOU TWO, DONE IT?
SHIBA-SAN, DID YOU KNOW THAT AKI IS A (ASPIRING) TOP?
HE WANTS TO BE THE SEME?
REALLY?
STANDS UP
AKI WOULD PROBABLY CHANGE HIS MIND IF YOU'D OFFER HIM YOUR ASS
I WILL THINK ABOUT IT...
WHAT?
AH! I FORGOT TO ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT!

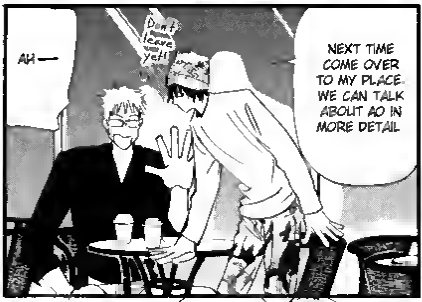
STOP BEING SO ANNOYING! OF COURSE I WAS!
WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, WERE YOU EVER PICKED ON BECAUSE OF YOUR NAME?
They have a really good relationship.
THAT NOISY GUY FINALLY LEFT.
When did you get here?
AKI!?
RIGHT!?
Next up will be firs and jumpers.
BUT THE SPRING SE. SON IS NEARLY OVER.
That incident with magic
I CAN'T TAKE MY ANGER OUT ON HIM...
AH~ THE WEATHER IS SO GOOD!
ON A DAY LIKE THIS, WITH FLOWER POLLEN FLOATING ABOUT, AO WON'T APPEAR.

IS HOLDING A FIERCE LOOKING GREAT MAN LIKE ME REALLY THAT MUCH FUN?!
ARE YOU FOR REAL?!
HEY, LET ME DO YOU, SAYUU
CHOKE!
SAYUU, DO YOU REALLY NOT GET HOW MUCH OF A LUSTY BODY YOU HAVE?
RESOLUTE
I would still like to work here...
AKI...CAN YOU PLEASE LOWER YOUR VOICE A LITTLE..!
YOU'RE GONNA LET SOMEONE THRUST INTO YOU EVENTUALLY ANYWAY. SO I'M TELLING YOU I'LL BE THE DEBUT PERFORMER
—THAT'S,
WILL DIE.
AO, THAT GUY
BUT, THE WAY HE SPEAKS IS JUST LIKE HOW AO SPOKE AT THE LOVE HOTEL....
"I WILL EVENTUALLY BE SWALLOWED UP BY AKI—"

I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH THINGS,
EACH TIME YOU MEET WITH ME, AO GETS WEAKER.
THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING NOW'S THE CHANCE
I'M NOT CLEAR ABOUT THE WHOLE SITUATION,
BUT FOR THOSE WITH MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES, AREN'T THE OTHER PERSONALITIES THERE TO HELP SHOULDER THE PAIN OF THE HOST?
ENRAGED
SO YOU COULD EVEN SAY AO'S YOUR SAVIOUR
HE'S MESSED WITH ME FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS,
AND I HAVE HAD ENOUGH!
I WANT TO BE COMPLETELY CURED OF THIS DISEASE.
YOU SEEM VERY STEADFAST ABOUT AO,
HAVE YOU SLEPT WITH HIM?
WHEN I SAY NO I MEAN NO!

DON'T YOU THINK THAT HE IS REALLY PITIFUL?
FROM THE BEGINNING, YOU S,IID YOURSELF THAT HE IS "YOUR LITTLE TWIN BROTHER"!
"MY AIM WAS TO SORT OUT THOSE NEGATIVE EMOTIONS HE HAS WITHIN...."
I DON'T MIND—
JUST AS LONG AS SHIBA IS WILLING TO HOLD ME —"
BROTHERS LIVE IN THE MIDST OF FIGHTING
FUNDAMENTALLY SPEAKING ANYWAY
SAYUU, ARE YOU AN ONLY CHILD?
YES
REALLY~
HE'S ALSO BETTING THE REMAINING TIME HE WAS AND IS PROBABLY DESPERATE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT
JUST TELL HIM YOU'LL HAVE SEX WITH HIM OR WHATEVER
SO I'M NOT PITIFUL?
HE'S CAUSED YOU TROUBLE AS WELL
YOUR EARLIER FEELINGS OF RESENTMENT AT THE LOVE HOTEL,,
DON'T TELL ME THAT THOSE WERE FAKE TOO?


IF... EVEN IF AO WERE TO DISAPPEAR,
AND IF MY HAND DIDN'T TURN BACK TO NORMAL
HOW WOULD YOU COMPENSATE ME?
I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO MY PSYCHO-THERAPIST
HE'S A FAMOUS PERSON IN THE WORLD OF HYPNOTISM, BUT HE'S VERY EXPENSIVE
THAT'S IT?


Don't leave me yet!
AH—
NEXT TIME COME OVER TO MY PLACE. WE CAN TALK ABOUT AO IN MORE DETAIL

YOU WANT ME TO SAY I'LL LET YOU DO ME?
BUT YOU'RE STRAIGHT RIGHT?

.THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO AO ABOUT—

"SAYUU, YOU'VE GOT A NOSTALGIC SORT OF SMELL..."
I CAN TELL HIM IN YOUR PLACE
UNLESS IT'S SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT?
NO... IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT
TELL AO, I CAN ALWAYS
TREAT HIM TO COFFEE
SAYUU-KUN!
COMING!
Huh
ATCHOO!

...THANKS
Ah-choo!
Ah-choo!
Wow
YOU'RE ...
GRAB!
Chief...
sigh
SAYUU, How Long ARE YOU PLANNING To SLACK off?

KACHA!
AKI—
HE'S FINALLY FINISHED
AKI? AO?
HEY!
—
!!

SHOULD I CALL AN AMBU-LANCE?
ZAAAA
SEARCH
SEARCH
SORRY, I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED SOONER
I JUST FEEL A BIT DIZZY FROM THE HEAT
Let's place these under-neath
RUN
RUN
CLATTER!
RUN
RUN

FU
...AKI? AO?
WHICH ONE ARE YOU?
SHIBA-CHAN...
AKI.

I didn't see anything I didn't see anything!
GULP
FAN
FAN

THUMP
THUMP
A...
AKI
THUMP
IF IT'S YOU,
I CAN ACCEPT IT...
HOLD ME
THUMP

AKI
AKI
THIS IDIOT. JUST HOW MANY YEARS HAVE WE KNOWN EACH OTHER
THAT'S WHY YOU FEEL LIKE THIS, RESTLESS AND UNEASY
NOT LIKE IT CAN BE HELPED, HUH
SAYUU WAS THE FIRST MAN THAT AKI TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO PURSUE

AKI
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
AKI...
HOWEVER, SEDUCING MEN IS AKI'S WAY OF MOVING ON IN LIFE.
THRUST
—AH.
IF I DIDN'T GIVE YOU RELEASE, THOSE FEELINGS WOULD COME OUT IN A MORE TWISTED WAY
IF HE HADN'T BEEN VIOLATED WHEN HE WAS 6 YEARS OLD BY THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER, SURELY YOU WOULD'VE BLOSSOMED MORE NATURALLY

I ALREADY KNOW.

AKI ACTUALLY

JUST YOU, HE NEVER WANTS YOU, SHIBA, TO SEE THAT SIDE OF HIM. —

GASP
SHIBA?!
SHIBA!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!!?

UWAAH!
AKI!!
UMM...
IT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE...